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ABSTRACT

United Methodist-related colleges and universities maintained black enrollment at 9 percent of the total student body consistently during the period 1976-80, keeping pace with the growth in overall enrollment. Many institutions showed a decline in black student enrollment in 1978, with a significant increase in 1980, particularly in the universities, liberal arts II colleges, and two-year colleges. A gradual shift is seen in distribution of black students between predominantly black and non-black institutions. The rate of increase of female black student enrollment, at 2.8 percent per year, mirrors the overall female enrollment increase. Black male enrollment declined by 0.4 percent per year, against overall male enrollment increase of 0.3 percent. Universities, comprehensive colleges, liberal arts II, and two-year colleges have the greatest black female enrollment. Although predominantly non-black institutions showed a consistent increase in black students, the 11 black institutions continue to play a major role in higher education for blacks, enrolling nearly half the total black students in United Methodist-related colleges and universities. The contribution to higher education of these black institutions is felt to fulfill a high priority in the church's mission. Survey results are displayed in tables, with some narration. (MSE)

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BLACK STUDENTS OF UNITED METHODIST-RELATED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES: AN ENROLLMENT PROFILE

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BLACK STUDENTS OF UNITED METHODIST-RELATED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES:
AN ENROLLMENT PROFILE

This study is a part of the Ethnic Race Composition of Enrollment in United Methodist-Related Colleges and Universities, 1976-1980, which is currently being done by the Division of Higher Education.

The intended purpose of this brief report is to present a study on the Black student enrollment profile among United Methodist-related colleges and universities during the past five years, 1976-80. The prime source of raw data is the Higher Education General Information Survey report (HEGIS). Three-years' data, 1976, 1978, 1980, are used for this study. There are 102 institutions involved in this study rather than 105 due to the unavailability of the data. Thus, there are some discrepancies observed in statistics used in this study when they are compared with the MINDS data.

This analysis is done first as a whole group and then in the following groups:

1. Universities (8 institutions)
2. Comprehensive colleges (14 institutions)
3. Liberal Arts I colleges (9 institutions)
4. Liberal Arts II colleges (45 institutions excluding the Black colleges)
5. Two-Year colleges (15 institutions excluding the one Black college)
6. Black colleges (10 Liberal Arts II colleges and one two-year college)
   (1 professional school was excluded from this study)

ANALYSIS

During the past five years, Black student enrollment among the 102 United Methodist-related colleges and universities has increased steadily in actual numbers as shown below:

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Number of Black students	18,551	19,393	19,949
Percent change		+4.5	+2.9

When we observe the increase rate of Black student enrollment and compare it with the total enrollment growth rate, the increase in Black student enrollment is keeping up closely with the pace of the overall enrollment growth. A steady pace of Black student enrollment as a percent of total enrollment clearly indicates this factor.

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	202,163	203,730	215,558
percent change		+ .8	+ 5.8
Black student enrollment	18,551	19,393	19,949
percent change		+4.5	+ 2.9
As a percent of total	9.2	9.5	9.3

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Looking at male and female composition of Black student enrollment.

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total male student enrollment	106,824	102,278	107,365
percent change		-4.3	+5.0
Black male student enrollment	8,067	7,792	7,899
percent change		-3.4	+1.4
As a percent of total	7.6	7.6	7.4
Total female student enrollment	95,339	101,452	108,193
percent change		+6.4	+6.6
Black female student enrollment	10,432	11,546	11,910
percent change		+10.7	+3.2
As a percent of total	10.9	11.4	11.0

During the past five years, the Black female student enrollment growth rate has surpassed the respective growth rate of both total female student enrollment and Black student enrollment.

The following is an analysis of the individual groups of institutions:

Group 1. Universities

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	97,626	97,711	104,645
percent change		+0.1	+7.1
Total Black student enrollment	4,559	4,626	4,811
percent change		+1.5	+4.0
A percent of total	4.7	4.7	4.6
Total male student enrollment	54,498	51,933	56,088
percent change		-4.7	8.0
Total Black male student enrollment	2,265	2,128	2,134
percent change		-6.1	0.3
A percent of total	4.2	4.1	3.8

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total female student enrollment	43,128	45,778	48,557
percent change		+6.1	+6.1
Total Black female student enrollment	2,294	2,498	2,677
percent change		+8.9	+7.2
A percent of total	5.3	5.5	5.5

The total number of Black students who enrolled in the eight universities has increased at a steady rate during the past five years. Black male student enrollment shows a declining trend while Black female student enrollment is rapidly increasing, both in actual numbers and in a proportional percent of total male enrollment in the universities.

Group 2. Comprehensive colleges

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	35,175	34,315	36,146
percent change		-2.4	+5.3
Total Black student enrollment	1,289	1,434	1,570
percent change		+11.3	+9.5
A percent of total	3.7	4.2	4.3
Total male student enrollment	18,307	17,241	17,382
percent change		-5.8	+0.8
Total Black male student enrollment	649	708	755
percent change		+9.1	+6.6
A percent of total	3.5	4.1	4.3
Total female student enrollment	16,868	17,074	18,764
percent change		+1.2	+9.9
Total Black female student enrollment	640	726	815
percent change		+13.4	+12.3
A percent of total	3.8	4.3	+4.3

The fourteen comprehensive colleges enroll less Black students proportionally; however, the rate of increase is greater than the total enrollment growth rate. This is due to a notable increase in Black student enrollmen

Group 3. Liberal Arts I Colleges

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	12,264	12,414	12,881
percent change		+1.2	+3.8
Total Black student enrollment	374	381	371
percent change		+1.9	-2.6
A percent of total	3.0	3.1	2.9
Total male student enrollment	5,999	5,857	5,997
percent change		-2.4	+2.4
male			
Total Black/student enrollment	170	173	173
percent change		+1.8	0.0
A percent of total	2.8	2.9	2.9
Total female student enrollment	6,265	6,557	6,884
percent change		+4.7	+5.0
Total Black female student enrollment	204	208	198
percent change		+1.0	-4.8
A percent of total	3.3	3.2	2.9

Black student enrollment among the nine Liberal Arts I colleges shows a slightly declining trend in spite of the fact that overall enrollment is increasing. These institutions maintain also proportionally smaller numbers of Black students than other groups, especially in regard to their decreasing trend in Black female student enrollment.

Group 4. Liberal Arts II Colleges

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	39,037	41,004	42,975
percent change		+5.0	+4.8
Total Black student enrollment	2,148	2,665	2,822
percent change		+24.1	+5.9
A percent of total	5.5	6.5	6.6
Total male student enrollment	19,374	19,186	19,561
percent change		-1.0	+2.0
Total Black male student enrollment	1,154	1,186	1,274
percent change		+2.8	+7.4
A percent of total	5.9	6.2	6.5

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total female student enrollment	19,663	21,818	23,414
percent change		+11.0	+7.3
Total Black female student enrollment	994	1,479	1,548
percent change		+48.8	+4.7
A percent of total	5.1	6.8	6.6

The forty-five Liberal Arts II colleges, which is the largest group among the six, shows a notable increase in total Black student enrollment during the past five years as well as both in male and female student categories. The proportion of Black students in total, male and female categories, also shows an increase.

Group 5. Two-Year Colleges

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	8,696	8,897	9,623
percent change		+2.3	+8.2
Total Black student enrollment	894	949	1,052
percent change		+6.2	+10.9
A percent of total	10.2	10.7	10.9
Total male student enrollment	4,754	4,513	4,806
percent change		-5.1	+6.5
Total Black male student enrollment	443	427	504
percent change		-3.6	+18.0
A percent of total	9.3	9.5	10.5
Total female student enrollment	3,942	4,384	4,817
percent change		+11.2	+9.9
Total Black female student enrollment	451	522	548
percent change		+15.7	+5.0
A percent of total	11.4	11.9	11.4

The fifteen two-year colleges enroll proportionally more Black students than the other four groups. Both male and female Black student enrollment shows an increasing trend.

Group 6. Black Colleges

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Total student enrollment	9,860	9,795	9,935
percent change		-0.7	+1.4
Total Black student enrollment	9,287	9,338	9,323
percent change		+0.6	-0.2
A percent of total	94.2	95.3	93.8
Total male student enrollment	3,821	3,497	3,638
percent change		-8.5	+4.0
Total Black male student enrollment	3,419	3,214	3,172
percent change		-6.0	-1.3
A percent of total	89.5	91.9	87.2
Total female student enrollment	6,039	6,298	6,297
percent change		+4.3	0.0
Total Black female student enrollment	5,868	6,124	6,151
percent change		+4.4	+0.4
A percent of total	97.2	97.2	97.7

The eleven historically Black colleges show a relatively stable enrollment trend in Black students during the past five years, except Black male students. Black female student increase rate is not as high as in the other groups.

Black student enrollment distribution among the six groups:

	1976-77	1978-79	1980-81
Group 1. Universities	4,559 (24.6%)	4,626 (23.9%)	4,811 (24.1%)
Group 2. Comprehensive Colleges	1,289 (6.9%)	1,434 (7.4%)	1,570 (7.9%)
Group 3. Liberal Arts I Colleges	374 (2.0%)	381 (1.9%)	371 (1.9%)
Group 4. Liberal Arts II Colleges	2,148 (11.6%)	2,665 (13.7%)	2,822 (14.1%)
Group 5. Two-Year Colleges	894 (4.8%)	949 (4.9%)	1,052 (5.3%)
Group 6. Black Colleges	9,287 (50.1%)	9,338 (48.2%)	9,323 (46.7%)
Total	18,551 (100%)	19,393 (100%)	19,949 (100%)

The above distribution shows that slightly over fifty percent of the total Black students enrolled among the eleven Black colleges in 1976. There was a gradual declining trend in this distribution as other groups of institutions began to enroll more Black students during the past five years. Groups 1, 2, 4 and 5 show a notable increase in Black student enrollment both in proportion and actual numbers of Black students enrolled,while groups 3 and 6 remain approximately at the same level.

Summary

This study indicates that United Methodist-related colleges and universities maintained Black student enrollment at a level of nine percent of the total student body consistently during the past five years. This means that Black student enrollment has kept pace with the growth in overall enrollment.

Many of the institutions showed a decline in Black student enrollment in 1978; however, they showed a significant improvement in 1980, particularly in the universities, Liberal Arts II colleges, and two-year colleges. Thus, a gradual shift is seen in the distribution of Black students between predominantly Black institutions and non-Black institutions.

There was a notable change in the female student enrollment pattern during the past five years. The increase rate of female student enrollment during the past five years surpassed that of the male student enrollment. Female student enrollment showed an average annual increase rate of 2.6%, while male student enrollment showed 0.3%. Black female student enrollment showed an average annual increase rate of 2.8% against -0.4% of Black male students. The University, Comprehensive College, Liberal Arts II and Two-Year College groups are particularly eminent in enrollment of Black female students.

Though predominantly non-Black institutions showed a consistent increase in Black students, the eleven Black institutions continue to play a major role in higher education for Blacks, enrolling nearly half of the total Black students among United Methodist-related colleges and universities. The contribution to higher education of these Black institutions undoubtedly fulfills a high priority in the mission of the church.

This study clearly shows that United Methodist-related colleges and universities continue to make a strong effort to provide increased opportunities for higher education for Blacks.

Ken Yamada
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